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General Assembly

FIFTIETH SESSION

Official Records

THIRD COMMITTEE
11th meeting
held on
Monday, 16 October 1995
at 3 p.m.
New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 11th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. RATA (New Zealand)
(Vice-Chairman)

later: Mr. TSHERING (Bhutan)
(Chairman)

CONTENTS

AGENDA ITEM 100: SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT, INCLUDING QUESTIONS RELATING TO THE WORLD SOCIAL SITUATION AND TO YOUTH, AGEING, DISABLED PERSONS AND THE FAMILY (continued)

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DISTR. GENERAL
A/C.3/50/SR.11
26 October 1995

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

95-81620 (E)

In the absence of Mr. Tshering (Bhutan), Mr. Rata (New Zealand), Vice-Chairman, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 3.20 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM 105: SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT, INCLUDING QUESTIONS RELATING TO THE WORLD SOCIAL SITUATION AND TO YOUTH, AGEING, DISABLED PERSONS AND THE FAMILY (continued) (A/50/84-E/1995/12, A/50/114, A/50/156, A/50/163, A/50/181-E/1995/65, A/50/215-S/1995/475, A/50/254-S/1995/501, A/50/370, A/50/374, A/50/428-S/1995/787, A/50/454, A/50/473; A/CONF.166/8)

1. Ms. PRADA DE MESA (International Labour Organization (ILO)) said that, because of its unique structure and its mandate to promote social justice, ILO had been given a special role in the follow-up to the Copenhagen World Summit for Social Development with respect to employment. It was already taking steps to implement that mandate and to pursue the goal of full employment.

2. The goal of its work with the disabled was to promote equal treatment and opportunity in training and employment through standard-setting, technical cooperation and advisory services. So far, 51 countries had ratified the 1983 ILO Convention concerning Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (Disabled Persons). In support of the principles outlined in that Convention, ILO had implemented technical programmes, including active contribution to the public debate on disability issues, development of research and support networks, vocational training and income-generating programmes. Training and employment programmes were currently under way for disabled citizens and ex-combatants in a number of countries striving to rebuild their economies in the aftermath of armed conflict.

3. With regard to older persons, ILO policy included prevention of age discrimination in employment, improved social protection, and the promotion of appropriate standards in respect of retirement and pensions. ILO technical programmes emphasized the need to give older people the opportunity to pursue work, retirement, or, if desired, a combination of the two. ILO provided assistance to Governments and other bodies in drafting the necessary legislation and setting up appropriate structures. It was striving to meet the priorities defined by the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development.

4. Mr. SPETH (Administrator, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)), recalling the importance of the objectives fixed by the World Summit, welcomed the agreement reached by the United Nations agencies to make a concerted effort to eliminate world poverty, the Summit's most compelling mandate. The agencies had agreed to strengthen their commitment to and collaboration for the goals established at the Summit, while keeping inter-agency mechanisms light and flexible and avoiding duplication. They had conceived four new inter-agency task forces, each geared towards one of the main Summit objectives. UNDP had been tasked to work with each task force, providing support to the resident coordinator system and utilizing its own programme resources to promote an integrated thrust in poverty elimination and to integrated assistance to

countries developing their anti-poverty strategies, and also to lead a working group on sustainable livelihoods for the poor.

5. The implementation of the Copenhagen agreements would be the primary objective of UNDP for the years ahead; there was a remarkable convergence between its objectives and the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action. UNDP commitment to the advancement of women, the regeneration of natural resources and the provision of sustainable livelihoods for all were being brought increasingly within the framework of poverty elimination, the overriding objective of UNDP. A new resource-programming framework would facilitate greater flexibility in the allocation of UNDP resources, which were more than ever focused on poverty. A poverty elimination fund was being created, to be used primarily to assist countries in the preparation of national anti-poverty strategies agreed to at the Summit.

6. Resident representatives had been instructed to ensure that UNDP programmes focused on empowering people living in poverty, especially women, through participation and capacity development, and to support initiatives that would provide equitable access to productive assets and opportunities. They had been requested to ensure high leverage for limited UNDP resources in system-wide solutions, using the programme approach and seeking to build national capacities for policy development and programme implementation.

7. As a result of the Summit, the United Nations system had come together in an unprecedented way with a commitment to integrated follow-up.

8. Ms. ARYSTANBEKOVA (Kazakstan) said that her delegation, which had actively participated in the Copenhagen World Summit, supported the decision to hold a plenary meeting of the General Assembly on the implementation of the outcome of the World Summit during the anniversary session.

9. Her delegation supported the International Plan of Action on Ageing and the observance of the International Year of Older Persons in 1999, which was the next important stage in the evolution of the United Nations programme on ageing. Kazakstan also supported United Nations activities to implement the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons. In spite of the difficult transition to a market economy, her country was taking all measures to deal with the acute social problems that had arisen, including those affecting Kazakstan's three million older persons and disabled, and was establishing modern diagnostic and rehabilitation centres for the latter.

10. Her delegation fully supported the principles and goals of the Copenhagen Declaration, particularly in recognizing the family as the basic unit of society and acknowledging that it played a key role in social development and as such should be strengthened. Her Government was continuing to carry out far-reaching measures to provide social support to families with children and attached particular importance to assisting families and other groups living in ecologically damaged areas.

11. Kazakstan was currently drawing up a national programme to provide support to socially vulnerable population groups with the assistance of international organizations, which were providing invaluable aid in the social and economic

sphere. UNDP had provided assistance in drawing up the first draft of the national report on the human dimension, which would be used to carry out social programmes aimed at raising living standards and utilizing human potential.

12. In May 1995 the World Bank had approved Kazakstan's social-protection project, which would strengthen the capacity of the employment service in registering unemployed persons and providing unemployment benefits and training. That was the first such project of the World Bank in a member country of the Commonwealth of Independent States. In November 1994, her Government had signed an agreement on cooperation with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) in order to find effective approaches to assisting children, mothers and other socially vulnerable groups.

13. Mr. AL-MAHMOUD (Qatar) said that the family was the basic building block of society. It was noticeable that crime, deviancy and social ills were less apparent in societies which had traditional family values than in those where the family system had disintegrated. The Islamic Shariah and the Qur'an provided important guidance in that respect. Families in Qatar were given every assistance, provided with social and health care and educational services in order to make its people fit for their responsibilities. Particular attention was paid to improving women's qualifications and increasing their participation in raising the standard of living of families. That was done through training centres and providing employment facilities and access to markets for women's output.

14. The 1994 International Year of the Family had given prominence to the national priorities which lay at the heart of family requirements. Foremost among those was achieving a balance between work and the responsibilities of family life. The family provided security and affection, taught children spiritual and moral values, linked the generations, passed on what was important and protected children from drug abuse and other ills.

15. That must be borne in mind when working to support the family, as must the fact that women had a vital role to play in social development. Qatar believed that social development was a goal which could safeguard human dignity, and that providing support for the family was the primary route for achieving that goal.

16. Mrs. GITTENS-JOSEPH (Trinidad and Tobago), speaking on behalf of the thirteen States members of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) which were Members of the United Nations, said that the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action represented a momentous step forward. The heads of Government of CARICOM had urged member States to examine the commitments and conclusions of the Summit with a view to implementation.

17. One of the social institutions which had been increasingly affected by the changing world environment was the family; that was particularly disturbing because the family represented the primary unit of society. It must be an integral part of development efforts, because it served as an agent of change. Recent widespread discussion of and action on family issues had sensitized the international community to the complex challenges facing families all over the world. In the Caribbean, as elsewhere, the family structure was not immune from economic and social pressures, or problems such as poverty, drug abuse and

domestic violence. For historical and sociological reasons, female-headed households were a common feature; that problem was compounded by the high incidence of unemployment and poverty among women in many Caribbean countries. Many programmes had been established in CARICOM countries to support the family unit.

18. Young people were also severely affected by world-wide political, social and economic developments, leading at times to feelings of frustration and alienation which in turn led to behaviour problems. The tenth anniversary of the International Youth Year provided an invaluable opportunity to reflect on the situation of young people. Youth unemployment was a major concern for many CARICOM States. In some countries as much as 70 per cent of the unemployed were under 30 years old. The plight of young men, who were increasingly endangered by the spread of AIDS, drug abuse and rising crime rates, and affected by educational and illiteracy problems, was a preoccupation in many countries. Another recent phenomenon was the emergence of street children, especially in urban areas. Faced with those problems, many countries had instituted innovative programmes for young people, working towards a society where young men and women would be empowered to develop their potential, creativity and skills.

19. To invest in youth was to invest in the future. It was significant that the United Nations would shortly be considering the adoption of the world programme of action for youth towards the year 2000 and beyond. In so doing, the international community would affirm its support and hope for youth, and consequently help to create a better world.

20. In many countries, older persons were experiencing isolation due to a lack of family support, diminished income and mobility and health problems. As their numbers increased, there was a greater demand for geriatric and health-care services, and a growing need to ensure their financial security. It was incumbent upon society to ensure that senior citizens enjoyed a dignified and meaningful life. Policies had been adopted in a number of CARICOM countries to improve the provision of pensions, health care and social assistance.

21. Issues pertaining to persons with disabilities were receiving increased attention in CARICOM member States, and steps were being taken to promote equality of opportunities for that important sector of the population. Those included special education and training facilities, efforts to improve mobility, and attempts to remove discriminatory employment practices. However, much more needed to be done to eliminate prejudice and facilitate full participation.

22. The complexity of social issues necessitated a holistic approach. At the national level it was important to encourage the involvement of the various interest groups, non-governmental organizations and the private sector. At the international level, it was imperative to provide sufficient resources for programmes in the field of social development. Member States of CARICOM were committed to supporting efforts to enhance social development throughout the world, which would result in improved human well-being and also enhance peace and stability. The goal of an improved world social situation should be a major priority of the international community.

23. Ms. KOVALSKA (Ukraine) said that poverty, unemployment and social disintegration were currently the most urgent social problems, especially in countries undergoing radical economic transformations. Having inherited from the Soviet Union a structurally deformed economy, Ukraine had a complicated task in establishing its statehood. In 1994 her Government had adopted new social reforms and an economic strategy aimed at the construction of a new economic system. The most important task was to establish efficient social protection for vulnerable categories of the population. Her Government was planning to set up a State committee to coordinate and reform the social-security and social-insurance system.

24. The social situation in Ukraine was further complicated by a sharp reduction in the birth rate, an increase in the death rate and the rapid ageing of the population. Her delegation supported the observance of the International Year of Older Persons in 1999 and hoped that the measures taken within the framework of preparations for the Year would lead to common approaches to existing problems.

25. Caring for disabled persons was an important issue in her country. The adoption by the General Assembly of the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities had been a major achievement. The main principles of the Rules were the basis for Ukraine's programmes for disabled persons. Her delegation supported the appointment of the Special Rapporteur on Disability to monitor implementation of the Rules.

26. Ukraine attached great importance to the development and adoption of the world programme of action concerning youth to the year 2000 and beyond, which would serve as a universal strategy to solve problems affecting young people. The United Nations system could make a valuable contribution to social development by supporting and coordinating national efforts. Her delegation strongly endorsed the proposal for the urgent adoption of a global United Nations programme to promote social transformation in countries with economies in transition. Vigorous international support was needed to set up effective social-protection systems in order to maintain stability in those countries.

27. Ms. SANTIPITAKS (Thailand) said that her country was deeply committed to achieving "a society for all" that included groups which had once been marginalized, particularly youth, older persons and persons with disabilities. Accordingly, Thailand supported the observance of the International Year of Older Persons in 1999 and had already initiated a number of long-term measures to improve the health and well-being of older persons and enhance respect for them. A national committee of representatives from the public and private sectors made policy recommendations. The contribution by older persons to economic and social development should be recognized; Governments, international and non-governmental organizations should consider ways to provide them with occupational therapy, in addition to meeting their basic needs. Accordingly, Thailand supported the target laid down in the report of the Secretary-General (A/50/114) of establishing a global network of senior volunteers for social and economic development.

28. Her country also paid special attention to disabled persons by providing social services, educational programmes, health care, vocational centres and employment. The Government sought cooperation from the private sector to increase the hiring of the disabled by granting special tax incentives. Non-governmental organizations also played an important role by providing information and through fund-raising. Her country, which also attached great importance to the family as the basic unit of society, had established a subcommittee to follow up the 1994 International Year of the Family and enable families to care for children, older persons and the disabled.

29. Mr. KHAN (Pakistan) said that social development must be based on sustained economic growth and sustainable development. The foremost task was to make the economies of developing countries viable so that they could feed and clothe their people and provide them with health care and education. At the same time, the promotion and protection of human rights was necessary to ensure opportunities for the full development of the individual and society. Vigorous international support for national efforts was essential for development and peace. The current environmental crisis was mainly due to the unsustainable pattern of production and wasteful consumption.

30. The recommendations of the Copenhagen World Summit for Social Development must be translated into concrete policies at both the national and international level. The support of the developed countries was essential, and a global policy for the eradication of poverty must be adopted. People living in situations of civil and ethnic strife were the most directly affected by social disintegration. In Bosnia and Herzegovina, Afghanistan, Tajikistan, Kashmir and many other parts of the world, the lives of millions of people have been disrupted. National and international mechanisms were needed to provide them with humanitarian assistance. Where conflicts had been resolved, the international community should promote peace through reconciliation, rehabilitation and reconstruction. The process of disarmament and the transfer of resources from defence-oriented security to social security must be accelerated. The United Nations should play a more assertive role in defusing conflicts through mediation, arbitration, preventive diplomacy and peacemaking.

31. The developed countries must, without further delay, meet their commitment to allocate 0.7 per cent of their gross national product for official development assistance. That would be a great step towards solving social and economic problems in the developing countries. In addition to reallocating existing resources, additional resources for social development must be made available as agreed at the Copenhagen Summit. There was an urgent need to reduce the debt of low-income countries, decrease the multilateral debt burden of other developing countries and cancel the public debt of African countries and the least developed countries. The close involvement of the Bretton Woods institutions in the follow-up to the world conferences on population, social development and women would make structural-adjustment programmes socially sensitive and responsible. The link between poverty and unfavourable terms of trade was well established. Close international cooperation was required to improve market access for the developing countries and discourage protectionism. The United Nations should explore new ways to influence and regulate economic decision-making.

32. With support from various United Nations entities, the Asian Development Bank and many donor countries, and through larger budgetary allocations made possible by its economic reforms, Pakistan had launched a social action programme, at a cost of $8 billion, to address urgent needs in education, health, nutrition, water supply and sanitation. The main objectives were to eradicate poverty, redress gender inequities, promote rural development and protect the environment. In addition, the Government had identified the vulnerable groups that should benefit from social welfare and rehabilitation programmes. It was paying greater attention to the rights of women, children, religions and ethnic minorities and the poor.

33. Pakistan considered that the Commission for Social Development should be strengthened so that it could help implement the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action, and that UNDP and ILO should support social development programmes in their respective areas of competence.

34. Mr. ARDA (Turkey) said that his country sought to eradicate poverty, illiteracy, exclusion and inequalities by instituting compulsory primary education, ensuring equal educational opportunities for both sexes and trying to provide primary health services to all, which were free of charge for those in need.

35. Turkey would be pleased to share its experience, gained through United Nations assistance programmes, in the field of social development. In fact, it already made substantial contributions to bilateral, regional and international initiatives by building hospitals and schools, providing technical assistance for economic activities, awarding scholarships and making cash donations to social institutions.

36. The Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action were valuable instruments for the realization of common goals. Social solidarity was, however, already a tradition in Turkey. For example, gender discrimination in education had been banned since the 1920s, and women were encouraged to participate in all spheres of social life. Turkey intended to use the world programme of action for youth to the year 2000 and beyond (E/1995/24) as a guide for national measures to benefit youth. It had actively observed the International Year of the Family and had contributed to the Voluntary Fund for the Year, and it planned to be equally active in observing the International Year of Older Persons. In that regard, it supported the draft resolution contained in document A/C.3/50/L.2.

37. Particularly in view of the increase in the number of disabled persons as a result of armed conflicts, Turkey attached great importance to the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities. It supported the work of the Special Rapporteur on Disability, and had answered the latter's questionnaire. As a country that took a people-centred approach to development, Turkey was honoured to be the host of the Second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), which would take place in Istanbul in 1996.

38. Ms. MIRBAHA (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that unfair international economic relations, widening economic disparities and international indifference to deprivation in developing countries were jeopardizing not only social development, but also international peace and security. In the process of enhancing social well-being, special attention must be paid to vulnerable groups.

39. As a country with a young population, Iran strove to promote young people's moral, educational, intellectual and physical development, and believed that the adoption of the world programme of action for youth to the year 2000 and beyond would focus more attention on youth problems. Likewise, Iranians felt that they had a religious, moral and social duty to care for the elderly, and the Government planned to include welfare programmes for the elderly in the country's second five-year development programme.

40. The Government had also made generous budgetary allocations to support vulnerable sectors of society and had adopted comprehensive measures to assist disabled persons, such as establishing vocational services and a vocational rehabilitation centre within the Ministry of Labour, holding workshops for disabled persons and setting aside 13 per cent of government administrative posts for disabled persons.

41. Since the economic situation of Iranian families had tended to deteriorate as a result of structural-adjustment programmes and external factors such as the war imposed on the country, the Government had taken steps to assist low-income families and planned to implement more measures under the second five-year programme. She hoped that all countries would work to promote family stability in order to safeguard human development and the future of mankind.

42. Mrs. NXUMALO (Swaziland) said that social development began with family development, since the family was the basic unit of society. The capacities and responsibilities of families must be used to address the problems of young, older and disabled persons.

43. Her country emphasized the provision of opportunities for young people to acquire skills that enabled them to engage in income-generating activities. The Government provided modest annual grants to various youth organizations through the Swaziland National Youth Council, whose officers were elected by the youth organizations themselves.

44. Swaziland was currently considering draft legislation on the training and employment of disabled persons and the establishment of a revolving-loan scheme for the disabled. People with disabilities who could not work received financial assistance, while those who could work received training at the ccuntry's vocational rehabilitation centre.

45. Her country welcomed the designation of 1999 as the International Year of Older Persons and supported the United Nations Principles for Older Persons (A/50/114). While institutions for the elderly were unacceptable in Swaziland, whose culture emphasized the role of older persons as decision-makers within the family, needy persons aged 65 and over could receive financial assistance from

the Government. In addition, public-awareness campaigns promoted respect for and assistance to the elderly at the family, neighbourhood and community levels.

46. Mr. WI Sok Yon (Democratic People's Republic of Korea) said that the World Summit for Social Development had highlighted the many economic and social problems stemming inter alia from inequitable international economic relations and armed conflicts. Social development policies should harness the capacities of the beneficiaries themselves. Moreover, since the social well-being of developed countries was closely linked to that of developing countries, the former should provide assistance to the latter for social development programmes and should fully honour their financial obligations under the various programmes of action adopted by the United Nations. Developing countries needed adequate financial and material resources, inter alia from international financial institutions, in order to implement international consensus agreements on social development.

47. Because of their vital role in promoting social development, young people received special attention in his Government's social programmes. His country also actively sought to safeguard the rights of disabled persons and to improve their situation.

48. All countries should implement the agreements reached at the World Summit for Social Development and the Fourth World Conference on Women, and the United Nations system should help developing countries to secure technical assistance and financing for social development. His country was fully committed to those efforts.

49. Mr. Tshering (Bhutan) took the Chair.

50. Mr. KILO-ABI (Zaire) recalled that the participants in the World Summit for Social Development had pledged to promote a number of high ideals, such as social justice, tolerance, non-violence, non-discrimination and fairer income distribution. For the moment, however, the world suffered from a long list of ills, that threatened to undo the progress made in the area of social development.

51. Bipolarity in international relations and values had given way to economic globalization, under which a small élite enjoyed prosperity and many others pursued the race to acquire wealth, while the majority were condemned to a deadly cycle of inflation, rampant disease, runaway population growth and stringent structural-adjustment programmes.

52. A strategy should be worked out to deal with the emergence of global technological "apartheid", and the existence of isolated islands of opulence as well as regions of misery and deprivation, in order to make the economy serve society rather than the inverse.

53. His delegation welcomed the initiatives taken by the international community in order to increase life expectancy. In view of the large proportion of the world population which was ageing, it would be wise to emulate the encouraging initiatives being taken by older persons in some parts of the world, as well as to pay attention to those cultures which treated their ageing persons

61. A committee had been established to devise policies and provide support for the orphaned and widowed. A comprehensive plan guaranteed children all their rights, including health care. It was hoped to immunize every child by the year 2000; more than 85 per cent had already been immunized. By the year 2000, basic education, already compulsory, would be available to every child. Her country had also developed a national housing policy in order to provide suitable accommodation for all, and distributed clothing to all those in need.

62. Women were of central importance to the family and to society, and had been given special attention by her country. In the Sudan women constituted more than 50 per cent of civil service employees and 50 per cent of students in higher education, and also held important administrative and judicial posts.

63. Young people were considered central to the development effort, and their educational opportunities had been greatly increased by the opening of new regional universities and the provision of vocational training centres. Youth employment was supported and opportunities had increased. Vigorous efforts were being made to eradicate illiteracy.

64. Disabled persons were to be integrated as fully as possible into society. In the Sudan, they enjoyed all their rights without discrimination. As far as possible, given the constraints, the Government provided education and training in order to make them independent, and had established a centre for artificial limbs. Furthermore ageing persons were not a problem in the Sudan, since they were accorded special respect and were well looked after by their families.

65. Social development could not be achieved unless poverty were eradicated, moral values were upheld and social injustices and distinctions based on religion, race or culture were removed.

The meeting rose at 6 p.m.

UNITED NATIONS

General Assembly

FIFTIETH SESSION

Official Records

THIRD COMMITTEE
12th meeting
held on
Tuesday, 17 October 1995
at 10 a.m.
New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 12th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. TSHERING (Bhutan)

CONTENTS

AGENDA ITEM 104: SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT, INCLUDING QUESTIONS RELATING TO THE WORLD SOCIAL SITUATION AND TO YOUTH, AGEING, DISABLED PERSONS AND THE FAMILY (continued)

AGENDA ITEM 105: CRIME PREVENTION AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE

AGENDA ITEM 106: INTERNATIONAL DRUG CONTROL

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The meeting was called to order at 10.15 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 105: SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT, INCLUDING QUESTIONS RELATING TO THE WORLD SOCIAL SITUATION AND TO YOUTH, AGEING, DISABLED PERSONS AND THE FAMILY (continued) (A/50/84-E/1995/12, A/50/114, A/50/156, A/50/163, A/50/181, E/1995/69, A/50/215-S/1995/475, A/50/254-S/1995/501, A/50/370, A/50/374, A/50/425-S/1995/787, A/50/454, A/50/473, A/CONF.166/9)

AGENDA ITEM 106: CRIME PREVENTION AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE (A/50/345, A/50/373, A/50/375, A/50/432, A/50/254-S/1995/501, A/50/433, A/CONF.169/18)

AGENDA ITEM 108: INTERNATIONAL DRUG CONTROL (A/50/89, A/50/95-E/1995/17, A/50/215-S/1995/475, A/50/407, A/50/425-S/1995/787, A/50/481)

1. Mr. AL-HITTI (Iraq), speaking on agenda item 105, said that since the end of the cold war there had been renewed interest throughout the world in social development, particularly for the least developed countries. The maintenance of international security and stability depended on such development. What was needed was to break the vicious circle of poverty, hunger and economic backwardness and to usher in a phase of development and prosperity for the benefit of all.

2. At the World Summit for Social Development held in Copenhagen in early 1995, the States in attendance had adopted new decisions and had renewed their commitment to social development for all the peoples of the world. They had also called on the international community to initiate multilateral cooperation activities and meaningful follow-up programmes in order to translate those decisions and commitments into concrete action.

3. Development required both material and human resources. With regard to the former, for several decades a marked imbalance had existed between economic growth rates in the countries of the North and South. On the one hand, those excluded from economic and social progress laboured under the burdens of increasing debt, economic backwardness and poverty, while, on the other, the technologically advanced countries used their monopoly of wealth and technology to exploit the raw materials of the developing countries. Against that background, the social development situation continued to deteriorate in many countries of the world.

4. The situation with regard to human resources was just as alarming. Development was hardly possible in the face of illiteracy, epidemics and discrimination against entire populations. The fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations should provide the occasion for reviewing many of the bilateral and multilateral practices that were obstacles to progress in the developing countries, such as the sanctions which certain organs of the United Nations imposed on a number of countries, including Iraq, and which had completely negative consequences for the population of the targeted countries. The Secretary-General had stated that sanctions were contrary to the Organization's developmental objectives, since they had adverse long-term effects and could cause serious harm to neighbouring countries. For their part, in a statement issued at the conclusion of the ministerial meeting held in Bandung in 1995, the

non-aligned countries had expressed the view that the consequences of economic sanctions on third States and neighbouring countries were such that compensation on humanitarian grounds should be granted to the countries concerned.

5. The defect inherent in the Charter of the United Nations, which authorized unlimited recourse to sanctions, had a totally negative impact on the fundamental rights of affected populations, including their right to obtain food and medicines and their right to education. It permitted certain member States of the Security Council to use the sanctions regime to starve entire populations and to jeopardize the development plans of the targeted countries. In so doing, those States were serving their own political interests. They were, for example, preventing the Iraqi people from exercising their right to development. They denied Iraq the right to import tires and even pencils for children under the pretext that those items could strengthen the country's infrastructure. Such sanctions as were enforced against Iraq diminished the Organization's credibility and were contrary to the spirit of the Charter. They must therefore be eased or lifted.

6. Even a cursory review of the reports of United Nations humanitarian organizations clearly showed the destructive consequences of the sanctions on development in general and on the lives of ordinary people. Available statistics for Iraq showed that the country was stagnating. Large numbers of children had been forced to interrupt their schooling because the cost had become too high, thereby jeopardizing their future in order to assist their families in their struggle against hunger, whereas not long before schooling had been compulsory and free for all from kindergarten to post-graduate studies. The sanctions also prevented the functioning of the literacy centres which had been established throughout the country to eliminate illiteracy and illiteracy had gained ground on education in the same way as hunger and malnutrition had replaced happiness, self-realization and hope.

7. Mr. LAGHMARI (Morocco) said that, as the Secretary-General had stated in his interim report on the world social situation (A/50/84), the scope of the international debate on that subject had been unprecedentedly broad. That renewal of interest was clearly a result of both the growing awareness of the deterioration of the social situation, the incapacity of current models to come up with solutions to the problems of social development, and the genuine desire of Governments to mobilize national and international energies to tackle the problem.

8. The rapidly accelerating process of globalization and interdependence and the greater opening up of economies to trade in goods and services and to capital transfers had highlighted the great diversity of situations and served to exacerbate inequalities and deepen poverty. In many developing countries, the salutary effects of structural adjustment programmes had been slow to manifest themselves. The main questions concerned the pace of reforms, the time frame for their implementation and the severity of the measures needed in structural reform programmes. High unemployment remained a general feature of 1994 and the current distribution of income was less equitable than it had been 15 years previously. The most intractable problem was how to reconcile measures to stimulate growth with strategies that placed emphasis on an equitable distribution of income. The World Health Organization had indicated in an aide-

mémoire published just previously that there were currently 1.3 billion people living in poverty in the world and that the number was increasing. The Moroccan delegation hoped that the following report of the Secretary-General would give prominence to the subject of poverty among the nine subjects which had been selected.

9. On the subject of older persons, his delegation supported the theme proposed in the Secretary-General's report on the conceptual framework of a programme for the preparation and observance of the International Year of Older Persons in 1999 (A/50/114), namely, "towards a society for all ages", because it incorporated the four dimensions described in the conceptual framework. Since population aging was destined to become a global phenomenon, each country must incorporate responses to the attendant problems in its development programme, in a manner consistent with the global targets on aging for the year 2001.

10. His delegation welcomed the action taken to implement the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons in the three areas of prevention, rehabilitation and equalization of opportunities in order to offer disabled persons genuine prospects of integration at all levels of society. It commended the approach taken by the Special Rapporteur of the Commission for Social Development to monitoring the implementation of the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities, including the emphasis on helping developing countries implement the Rules.

11. In March 1994, Morocco had set up a High Commission for Disabled Persons which was responsible for coordinating the activities of the various departments concerned with the question of disabilities. The High Commission also cooperated with a number of international organizations in drawing up programmes designed to improve the situation of disabled persons in specific spheres. It had disseminated the Standard Rules widely and had launched a pilot community project for integrating persons with disabilities, drawn up in collaboration with UNDP, WHO and UNFPA.

12. Morocco attached particular importance to protecting the family; it was deeply committed to the precepts of Islam and considered the family to be the basic unit of society and the institution of marriage to be a partnership entered into in order to create a lasting social unit. Moroccan legislation sought to prevent the break-up of the family. However, increased material well-being had not shielded the institution from the damaging effects of family break-up. Maintaining the family as a basic social unit was essential to the long-term cohesion and progress of society.

13. Morocco welcomed the proposal to increase the membership of the Commission for Social Development, which had a leading role to play in monitoring the various declarations and programmes of action in the social sphere and considered it desirable that the Commission should meet on an annual basis.

14. Mr. TRAORE (Guinea) said that the five major conferences organized by the United Nations in recent years on questions relating to social development and the conference on human settlements to be held in Istanbul bore witness to the renewed interest and intensive mobilization of the international community in connection with those issues.

15. That upsurge of interest was motivated by the far-reaching social and political changes occurring throughout the world and by the reordering of priorities which public authorities had been forced to undertake in response to the problems of poverty, unemployment and economic decline which developing countries, particularly those in Africa, had been facing for over 20 years.

16. Social development would become a reality only when all members of society had access to basic services, including education, health and drinking water. Unfortunately, the rigours of structural adjustment, which international institutions had failed to accompany with back-up measures, had exacerbated the situation of the most vulnerable sectors of society in developing countries, particularly in Africa. Aware of the harmful effects of economic crisis, Guinea had introduced a social policy and an action programme which had met with success in the spheres of basic education for all by the year 2000, primary health care, immunization coverage, family planning, schooling for girls, establishment of literacy centres, expansion of productive employment and access to drinking water. Programmes had also been launched to improve the situation of the family and of disabled, young and older persons.

17. His delegation was grateful to the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development of the United Nations Secretariat for the considerable assistance which it had given to the Guinean Government in organizing, in conjunction with the West African Federation of Associations of Persons with Disabilities, the Sub-regional Seminar on Legislation concerning Disabled Persons held in Conakry in September 1995. The Fédération guinéenne pour la promotion des associations de personnes handicapées currently held the presidency of the West African Federation, which served the 16 countries of the Economic Community of West African States and represented over 15 million disabled persons. With the assistance of the Division for Social Policy and Development of the above-mentioned Department, the Seminar had formulated directives which African Governments and associations of disabled persons could take as a starting point for harmonizing the relevant legislation by the end of 1996.

18. His delegation called on the Secretariat and the Special Rapporteur responsible for monitoring the implementation of the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities to strengthen the advisory services for African countries. It suggested that the Special Rapporteur should go out and meet with representatives of the authorities and of associations of disabled persons in order to advise them on how best to apply the Rules in keeping with the specific characteristics of each country.

19. Guinea had long considered the difficult situation faced by older persons to be a major challenge and therefore welcomed the General Assembly's decision, in its resolution 47/5, to observe the year 1999 as the International Year of Older Persons. That should provide an opportunity not only to evaluate the situation of older persons but also to take stock of the implementation of the International Plan of Action on Ageing.

20. In 1990, his Government had adopted a youth policy which emphasized training, development of the association movement, jobs, support for the establishment of businesses by young people and the creation of a fund for the

integration of young people, with a view to solving problems arising from delinquency, lack of occupation, illiteracy and lack of training in that fragile but dynamic sector of the population. It supported the draft world programme of action for youth to the year 2000 and beyond formulated on the occasion of the tenth anniversary of the International Youth Year.

21. His delegation supported the proposals contained in the Secretary-General's report on observance of the International Year of the Family (A/50/370) concerning follow-up measures to enhance the protection of the world's oldest institution.

22. Mr. AL-DAKHAIL (Saudi Arabia) said that his country was working for social justice and solidarity, in accordance with the teachings of Islam. His Government had instituted a social security programme for older persons and those on low incomes; more than $9 billion had been spent on it since its creation in 1962. Loans and direct and indirect assistance were also made available to families, particularly in the area of housing.

23. Dozens of hospitals and clinics had been opened in Saudi Arabia and infant mortality had fallen from 148 per 1000 in 1969 to 30 per 1000 in 1994. Persons with disabilities were provided with free prosthetic devices, reduced-fare travel passes and special education programmes. Firms employing more than 50 people were required by law to recruit 2 per cent of their personnel among disabled persons who had received appropriate training.

24. The State devoted about 18 per cent of its budget to education, which was recognized as a universal right and was provided free of charge at every level. Grants were paid to all students.

25. His Government's approach to social development, which was fully consistent with the aims and objectives set out in the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action, had both an economic and a social dimension, leading to a favourable environment both within the national economy and internationally. Thus, Saudi Arabia had provided approximately $70 billion in aid to developing countries, in the form of concessionary and unconditional loans or of equity investments in development projects. Some 70 countries in various regions had benefited from that aid.

26. Saudi Arabia attributed great importance to the family as the basic unit of society, and to the institution of marriage as the framework within which parents brought up their children in accordance with the precepts of Islam, teaching them not only social, moral and cultural values but also the sense of civic responsibility which was necessary for their development as individuals and as citizens.

27. The CHAIRMAN said that the Committee had concluded its consideration of agenda item 105. He invited the Committee to consider items 106 and 108, on the understanding that delegations could, if they so wished, refer to each of those items separately.

28. Mr. GIACOMELLI (Executive Director of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) and Director-General of the United Nations Office at

Vienna), introducing agenda item 106, said that the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations offered an opportunity for Governments to assess the role of the Organization in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice. At the current session, the Third Committee was expected, among other things, to review the progress made in the implementation of the Naples Political Declaration and Global Action Plan against Organized Transnational Crime and to take a decision on the planned upgrading of the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch into a division.

29. The General Assembly, in its resolution 49/158, had requested that the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme, particularly its technical cooperation capacity, should be strengthened. The Assembly had noted that the workload in that area continued to increase and that the programme had neither the institutional capacity nor the necessary resources to carry out its mandated activities. The Assembly had therefore called for action to rectify the situation and had requested the Secretary-General to report to it on the measures taken. Accordingly, the Secretary-General had presented a report (A/50/432) providing an overview of the programme's activities over the previous 12 months and emphasizing the inadequacy of the resources available to deal with the tasks ahead.

30. The Secretary-General's report on the implementation of the Naples Political Declaration and Global Action Plan against Organized Transnational Crime (A/50/433) provided an overview of the steps taken by the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, at its fourth session, to strengthen international cooperation in that area. The next stage was for States to specify what activities should be undertaken to implement the Plan, to agree on its pace and to devote their energies to the achievement of the common goals identified at Naples. Their input should enable the Commission to undertake rational and effective planning. On the issue of financing, regular budget resources could provide only a minimum framework and would have to be supplemented by extrabudgetary resources.

31. In accordance with paragraph 7 of General Assembly resolution 49/156, the Secretary-General had submitted a fourth report (A/50/375) on the United Nations African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, which emphasized the need to put the Institute on a sound financial footing.

32. The aforementioned reports, and also the report on the Ninth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, gave an idea of what had been accomplished in the field of crime prevention and what tasks the international community would have to face in the coming years.

33. The Ninth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders had been truly innovative, not only because it had been the first such event to be held in Africa, but also because of the emphasis placed on practical activities such as the demonstration workshops organized during the Congress. It had also been the first major United Nations conference to use electronic distance translation. The wide consensus achieved in Cairo attested to the determination of the 138 States taking part to combat crime and to put into practice the theme of the Congress: "Less crime, more justice: security for all".

34. The Ninth Congress, like the World Ministerial Conference on Organized Transnational Crime held at Naples, had emphasized the globalization of crime, especially organized crime. As the world approached the next millennium, crime was becoming a major threat to national and international security. With the growing trend towards regional integration and increased movement across borders, joint action by States was becoming absolutely imperative.

35. General Assembly resolution 49/158 had requested the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice to give priority attention to the conclusions of the Ninth Congress with a view to recommending appropriate follow-up by the General Assembly at its fiftieth session. Accordingly, the Commission had produced a draft resolution on the implementation of the recommendations of the Ninth Congress, which had been adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its 1995 session and was currently before the General Assembly.

36. It should be emphasized that the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, as the main functional organ of the Economic and Social Council in that field, had established close coordination with other bodies of the United Nations system, particularly the Commission on Narcotic Drugs. It was aware of the need to make the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme more action-oriented, in response to the emergence of new technological developments and complex organizational forms. Terrorism and other forms of violence created a climate of insecurity, jeopardizing not only internal stability but also relations among States. Security was increasingly in view not only as the absence of war but also as the maintenance of social peace. The new concept of security emphasized by the Secretary-General placed crime prevention and criminal justice on a par with other major international concerns, which was why the Secretary-General had decided to place the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme under the direct authority of the Director-General of the United Nations Office at Vienna.

37. Unfortunately the resources available to the programme had not increased at the same pace as the demands made on it, despite numerous resolutions of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council calling for an appropriate share of budgetary resources to be allocated to it. In his introduction of the programme budget for 1996-1997, the Secretary-General had proposed that the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch should be upgraded to a division. That proposal included the creation of two new administrative posts at the P-3 level, which represented a very modest staffing increase. Moreover, in the Statement of Principles and Programme of Action for the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme, annexed to General Assembly resolution 46/152, Member States had declared that the growing internationalization of crime should generate new and commensurate responses. They had also called on the international community to increase its support for technical cooperation and assistance for the benefit of all countries. Member States now had to translate those declarations into tangible financial support. In order to enable the programme to respond to the increased requests for assistance, it had to be given a stable human and financial resource base. The increased demand for the services of the two interregional advisers in crime prevention and criminal justice reflected the extent of the need. It was an area in which technical assistance had a crucial role to play.

38. Mr. MAYRHOFFER-GRUNBUHEL (Austria), speaking on agenda item 106 in his capacity as Chairman of the fourth session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, defined the four main areas on which he intended to concentrate: the role and format of the Ninth Congress, the working methods of the Commission, the question of resources, and the need to create a better linkage between the Commission's activities and other activities of the Organization.

39. The reorientation of the programme as decided in General Assembly resolution 46/152, entitled "Creation of an effective United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme", was intended to make the programme function more effectively by emphasizing technical cooperation, the exchange of expertise and the use of innovatory and pragmatic approaches. The new format of the Congress could certainly have been further improved, and perhaps a high-level meeting should be envisaged where ministers of justice and the interior would be able to concentrate on the practical tasks, but, all things considered, it had to be admitted that the Ninth Congress represented a very promising start.

40. There had been a good deal of discussion during the fourth session of the Commission on its working methods and the many problems which hindered the progress of its work. It should be pointed out that in 1992 the Economic and Social Council had determined the programme priorities for the Commission, laying particular emphasis on national and transnational organized crime, crime prevention in urban areas, juvenile crime and violence, and the efficiency, fairness and improvement of the administration of criminal justice. Any new initiative must therefore take those priorities into account. The Commission's working methods were not aimed at discouraging new initiatives but rather at ensuring that it carried out its work in an orderly way and made the best use of the available resources.

41. The Secretary-General's proposal to upgrade the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch to a division and to allocate some modest additional resources to it was intended to allow the Director-General of the United Nations Office at Vienna, who was also Executive Director of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP), to carry out effectively the responsibilities entrusted to him by the Secretary-General and to correct an anomaly. That anomaly lay in the fact that the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice was the only United Nations body in its category that was serviced by an entity which was not at the level of a division. The proposed strengthening applied to a programme that used less than 0.2 per cent of the United Nations budget.

42. At the fourth session of the Commission, the emphasis had been on the need to help developing countries and countries in transition to face up to the growing incidence and sophistication of crime, to ensure that development efforts would not be derailed by organized crime and to protect the rule of law and democratic institutions, especially in countries recovering from civil war or where democracy had just been restored. That was why the Commission should strengthen its cooperation with the United Nations Development Programme, financial institutions, the Department of Peace-keeping Operations, the Centre for Human Rights, the Department of Humanitarian Affairs and other bodies, as it

had already done successfully with UNDCP. Efforts at international and national level to encourage development, democracy and respect for human rights and to rid the world of drugs should logically be extended to crime prevention and criminal justice.

43. Mr. IZQUIERDO (Ecuador), speaking on agenda item 108 in his capacity as coordinator of the Permanent Mechanism for Consultation and Policy Coordination (Rio Group), said that the member countries of the Rio Group were alarmed by the ever-increasing size of the drug problem and by the amount of resources they constantly had to sacrifice to combating that scourge. He recalled that at their ninth summit meeting, held in Quito on 4 and 5 September 1995, the Heads of State and Government of the Rio Group had decided to continue the fight against the use, production and illicit trafficking of drugs and other related crimes. They had decided to address themselves to the social and economic aspects of the scourge of drugs, to make reciprocal commitments that would lead to a significant and verifiable decline in consumption as well as a sharp reduction in supply, and to adopt energetic measures against money-laundering, distribution organizations, arms trafficking and illicit trafficking in chemical precursors. To that end, they had decided to work together on the preparation of an inter-American convention on money-laundering and to study the possibility of establishing a centre for combating drug trafficking and related crimes. The Heads of State and Government of the Rio Group had also affirmed their support for the convening of a world conference on the production and trafficking of narcotic drugs. They also believed that joint strategies in that area should be reinforced and that the time had come for the international community to evaluate the results of United Nations action on drug control and to adopt a dynamic international strategy capable of beating the new networks of drug traffickers. They attached great importance to the current negotiations on the conference; their delegations intended to take part in those negotiations in a spirit of cooperation and understanding, in the hope that they would be brought to a successful conclusion.

44. Mr. BARRETO (Peru), speaking on agenda item 108, said that with the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances and the Global Programme of Action against the production, supply, demand, trafficking and distribution of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, the international community had provided itself with a framework for action which, as complete as it was, still needed to be improved from time to time. Rather than create new mechanisms for action, existing instruments and mechanisms simply needed to be adjusted as changing circumstances required. All Member States should cooperate in such efforts.

45. On the national level, Peru had had major successes in recent years, as a result of a programme of action which it had financed itself. It had managed to dismantle several drug trafficking networks, intercept large quantities of cocaine, put a stop to the use of planes in transporting illicit drugs and - by strengthening the penal regime applicable to trafficking in coca leaves and poppy seeds, the diversion of raw materials towards illicit drug production, and money-laundering - push the price of a coca leaf down from $70 to $7 and encourage Peruvian peasant farmers to change from growing coca to legal crops. In order to combat drug trafficking effectively, suppression was not enough - positive economic and social measures also had to be adopted. Peru was planning

other forms of development which would allow the persons concerned, the peasant farmers, to replace illegal crops with legal ones.

46. Finally, he pointed out that greater bilateral and multilateral cooperation was necessary to combat drug trafficking and invited countries and donor agencies to mobilize resources for that purpose.

47. Mr. TELLO (Mexico), speaking on agenda item 108, said that despite the fact that Governments had never before devoted so many human and economic resources to the fight against drug trafficking, the enormous power of drug traffickers continued to grow.

48. Clearly, the growth and changing nature of the problems posed by drug control required Governments to meet once again to discuss the problem. Convinced that such an initiative was necessary, the President of Mexico, Mr. Ernesto Zedillo, had proposed the holding of an international conference to evaluate international cooperation in drug control and to study ways of defeating the new networks of dealers. The tenth anniversary of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances was undoubtedly a particularly opportune moment to hold such a conference.

49. Mexico had already begun discussions with the countries concerned. Its initiative had been supported by all the Heads of State and Government who had participated in the Summit of the Americas held in Miami in December 1994, and had also been approved by the heads of State and Government of the Rio Group during their recent meeting in Quito. Mexico was of the opinion that the members of the international community could discuss international problems together, and must do so if they hoped to arrive at consensus-bared decisions which would encourage cooperation. An international conference against drug trafficking would have every chance of achieving tangible results and the proposals made by the United Nations International Drug Control Programme and by various conferences held in the recent past, such as tne Naples Conference on organized transnational crime, could provide a starting-point for the discussions. In addition, in order to keep costs as low as possible, his delegation proposed holding the conference at the United Nations Office at Vienna, and that it should last only one week and be preceded b/ two or three meetings of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, which could then serve as a preparatory committee. Such an event would be not only a summit meeting but also a conference in which the government agencies directly involved in the control of drugs and drug addiction could participate, and would not replace specific actions at the national level.

50. Efforts at the national level alone would not suffice to guarantee victory in the fight against the scourge of drugs. He hoped that such a conference would be successful and was confident that it would make the fight against drugs much more effective.

51. Mrs. BUCK (Canada), speaking on behalf of New Zealand, Australia and Canada on agenda item 106, said that those three countries, which had participated in the Ninth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, held recently in Cairo, were of the opinion that the meeting, in

accordance with its new mandate, had given participating delegations an opportunity to exchange information and consult each other on new trends in crime and the steps to be taken. The holding of workshops on current issues had contributed greatly to the practical orientation of the Congress. Future congresses should also have the same concrete focus but the number and nature of the questions to be submitted to workshops should be defined more clearly.

52. Notwithstanding its accomplishments at previous sessions, the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, at the beginning of its fourth session, had not yet succeeded in defining its priorities. It was gratifying therefore that, at its fourth session, the Commission had adopted a resolution asking States proposing any new initiative to provide background information on how the initiative was to be executed. In accordance with the plan for strategic management adopted at its first session, the Commission should have before it all relevant information in order to assist it in determining and carrying out its priorities.

53. Canada, Australia and New Zealand had recently made a joint statement before the Fifth Committee on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997. In that statement they had stressed that in the face of severe budget constraints the United Nations had to focus on key objectives and increase efficiency in order to protect priority programmes. The plan for strategic management of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice would help the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch make a stronger case in its call for allocation of sufficient resources to implement existing United Nations standards of crime prevention and criminal justice and to provide technical assistance to Member States which needed and requested it. However, with the level of resources currently available, it would be very difficult for the Branch to fulfil its growing mandate. Sufficient resources should therefore be allocated to the crime prevention and criminal justice programme.

54. Committed to combating international organized crime, Australia, Canada and New Zealand were pleased with the results of the World Ministerial Conference on Organized Transnational Crime held in November 1994 in Naples. They were especially satisfied with the follow-up that the Commission intended to undertake on the issue of violence against women. On the occasion of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Governments had reaffirmed their commitment to eliminate violence against women and had set out a comprehensive range of measures to eliminate, notably, gender-based violence, its causes and consequences. The plan of action to be developed at the fifth session of the Commission would help to translate the commitments made in Beijing into concrete action in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice.

55. The misuse of firearms was both a crime and a danger to society. The Commission had decided to include that question in the agenda for its fourth and following sessions. The work of the Commission in that area would be supported by the delegations of Canada, Australia and New Zealand.

56. The primary goal of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice was now to organize its priorities in accordance with the strategic management plan that it had agreed upon. It also needed to address the growing threat of

increasingly sophisticated forms of transnational crime and the need to respect and promote human rights in the administration of justice.

57. Mrs. ANDAYANI (Indonesia), speaking on agenda item 106, said that the breadth of organized criminal activity, its transnational character and its ability to exploit opportunities presented by a world in transition had made cooperation among States at all levels essential. In that context she welcomed the great strides made by the international community in recent years, such as the International Conference on Preventing and Controlling Money Laundering and the Use of the Proceeds of Crime: a Global Approach, convened in June 1994, and the World Ministerial Conference on Organized Transnational Crime, convened in Naples. She also welcomed the outcome of the Ninth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, which had provided a good forum for an exchange of views and experience. She was encouraged by the determination of Member States to cooperate in undertaking effective action. The Congress had underlined the importance of the technical assistance and advisory services provided by the United Nations, both in terms of law enforcement and the treatment of offenders. In that respect enhancement of the national capacities of countries, particularly the developing countries, was especially significant. Her delegation therefore hoped that the international community, having recognized the seriousness of the crime problem, as well as the human and material costs inflicted, would find the requisite resources to provide such services to countries in need of assistance. Recalling that, under its resolution 49/158, the General Assembly had accorded priority to operational activities and technical assistance in crime prevention and criminal justice, she welcomed the establishment of a second post of interregional adviser in crime prevention and criminal justice in the context of that programme. She likewise noted with interest the proposals of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice for improving the clearing-house capacity. In the region of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) the establishment of a database system within the ASEAN Criminal Police Organization (ASEANPOL) had proved extremely beneficial. At the international level, the establishment of a reliable criminal data network system should be encouraged.

58. Her delegation was interested by the proposal made at the Naples Ministerial Conference concerning the development of a convention against organized transnational crime. The subjects listed in the annex to resolution III of the Ninth United Nations Congress for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders provided a good basis for initiating deliberations on that important issue.

59. The deliberations undertaken at the Ninth Congress on the subject of juvenile delinquency and violent crime were productive. In particular, she thought that repressive measures should be implemented hand in hand with social policies with a view to eliminating the root causes of crime. She also welcomed the recommendations produced at the Ninth Congress during the workshop organized on the subject of the mass media and crime prevention.

60. In conclusion, she stated that her country had, in response to United Nations guidelines, taken certain measures to combat crime. A commission on crime prevention and criminal justice had been established at the Ministry of

Justice and provisions on terrorism had been incorporated into the Indonesian penal code.

61. She underlined the need to address the underlying socio-economic causes of crime and make a concerted effort to reduce poverty, hunger and malnutrition through sustainable development.

62. Mr. AHMAD (Malaysia), speaking on agenda item 108, said that his delegation was firmly of the view that the scourge of drugs could be contained and reduced only through concerted efforts and cooperation among nations. The problem should be addressed in a comprehensive manner by simultaneously reducing supply and demand, according priority to programmes for the social reintegration of drug addicts and monitoring and preventing the international movement of drugs. The strategy for waging war against drugs should be constantly re-evaluated in view of the ever-changing face of the drug menace. Vigilance was therefore necessary, as was the adoption of a comprehensive, continuous, balanced and multidisciplinary approach.

63. His delegation was happy to note that the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, having identified the weaknesses in the Global Programme of Action aimed at combating drugs, had, during 1995, adopted resolutions intended to create a cohesive strategy in that domain, enhance regional and international cooperation, particularly between customs authorities, and prevent the diversion of psychotropic substances for illicit purposes.

64. Committed to the war against the drug menace, Malaysia had signed the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961, as well as the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988. It also remained committed to implementation of the Comprehensive Multidisciplinary Outline of Future Activities in Drug Abuse Control, adopted at Vienna in 1987. At the national level, Malaysia had initiated an education programme to create public awareness and reduce the impact of illicit drug trafficking. A programme for the treatment and rehabilitation of drug addicts, together with social reintegration measures, had also been implemented. The Government had introduced an integrated project for the eradication and prevention of drug abuse focusing on high-risk areas. A national drug information system had also been established. In addition, Malaysia had collaborated actively at the regional level to combat the drug menace. It was the site of the ASEAN Regional Training Centre for Treatment and Rehabilitation and had identified education, treatment, rehabilitation, law enforcement and research as among the priority areas for the containment and reduction of drug abuse and trafficking. In that fight it benefited from cooperation with non-governmental organizations, local community-based organizations, the private sector and the media.

The meeting rose at 1 p.m.